

Message Text

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61

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /133 W
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R 201318Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0095

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

USUN NEW YORK 0926

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2638

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT,RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SMITH ANNOUNCES GENERAL ELECTION

1. RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH ANNOUNCED JUNE 19 THAT HE WOULD DISSOLVE RHODESIAN PARLIAMENT JUNE 21 AND CALL FOR A GENERAL ELECTION WITHIN NEXT TWO MONTHS.

2. RAND DAILY MAIL REPORTS THAT SMITH TOLD HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY HE CALLING GENERAL ELECTION BECAUSE UNCERTAINTY,WHICH HAD RESULTED FROM BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ANC AND FROM PRESSURES FROM WHITE OPPOSITION GROUPS,HAD PLACED HIM IN AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION.SMITH SAID HE HAD NEGOTIATED SOLELY WITH ANC BECAUSE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD INSISTED ANC WAS MAIN REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF AFRICAN OPINION.HE STATED, "CLEARLY THIS IS A WRONG ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION,"AND SAID THAT THEREFORE HE INTENDED TO CONVOKE A CONFERENCE WITH
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REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL SECTORS OF AFRICA OPINION,INCLUDING

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF CHIEFS.

3. IN OUTLINING SUBSTANCE OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH BISHOP MUZPREWA OVER PAST EIGHT MONTHS, SMITH INDICATED THAT ISSUE OF AFRICAN FRANCHISE AND NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES AFRICANS WOULD HAVE IN PARLIAMENT LED TO BREAKDOWN OF TALKS.HE ALSO STATED THAT THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF "MOUNTING LINKS" BETWEEN ZANU IN LUSAKA AND MEMBERS OF ANC CENTRAL EXECUTIVE.

4. SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION HAS REPORTED THAT ANC WILL NOT TAKE PART IN FORTHCOMING GENERAL ELECTION.ANC'S NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, DR. E.M. GABELLAH, IS QUOTED AS SAYING ANC HAS PASSED RESOLUTION IN MARCH THAT IT WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY ELECTION UNDER 1969 CONSTITUTION.
HURD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOCAL ELECTIONS, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PRETOR02638
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740162-0287
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740628/aaaaaxvb.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 NOV 2002 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: SMITH ANNOUNCES GENERAL ELECTION
TAGS: PINT, RH, (SMITH, IAN D)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005